BCCPAC Representation Report

Submitted by: Ann Whiteaker
Name of Event: Meeting with Minister MacDiarmid
Date of Event: July 13, 2009 3:40 PM
Location of Event: Ministers office

In attendance:
The Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid Minister of Education,
Sherri Mohoruk, Superintendent Liaison,
Lisa Dominato, Ministerial Assistant
Ann Whiteaker, BCCPAC President,
Deborah Garrity, BCCPAC Director,
Stephanie Longstaff, BCCPAC Director

On July 13 President Whiteaker, Director Longstaff and Director Garrity met with the new Minister of Education Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid. The Minister welcomed us and expressed her desire to hear from us and to have open lines of communication with BCCPAC.

The Minister noted that some of her priorities are

- Student success
- Early learning, optional full day kindergarten, then eventually 4 and 3 year olds
- Closing the gender gaps,
- aboriginal learners
- Committed to assessment

BCCPAC presented the minister our values and commitment to:

- Parents in education
- Helping our members become stronger and healthier sustainable groups

BCCPAC presented several areas they felt government could assist our organization, our members

- The development of a 3 to 5 year commitment to an operational budget creating some stability to the organization allowing for strategic planning to occur over several years.
- The creation of a more equitable or targeted funding for DPAC would empower the parent voice at the District level provincially. Current practice is not uniform throughout the province. BCCPAC suggested other sources of funding to help support education and PACs

No future meeting was scheduled but the offer was extended to schedule a meeting at anytime and to expect a quarterly meeting throughout the year.